



# State of North Carolina

## Department of Administration

Pat McCrory, Governor

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### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **Changing Face of Women in Eastern NC Forum Held Today**

RALEIGH, NC – November 1, 2013

The Council for Women is co-sponsoring a forum entitled the *Changing Face of Women in Eastern NC* today in Greenville, NC. The primary focus of the forum is the presentation and discussion of the findings contained in the *Status of Women in Eastern NC* briefing paper. Topics such as women's economic earnings, workforce participation, level of education, poverty, access to childcare, and health status are expected to be covered at the forum. The forum will be held today from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Sheppard Memorial Library, 530 Evans Street, Greenville, NC. The briefing paper will be available and the forum will be streamed live on the [NC Council for Women](http://www.nccouncilforwomen.org) website.

“We have to identify the problem areas before we make suggestions for improvements,” said Gale Wilkins, Executive Director of CFW. “The fact that women make only 80 cents on the dollar when compared to men is revealed in this report and is particularly troubling.”

CFW is co-sponsoring the forum with the Center for the Prevention of Family Violence in Pitt County. The forum will open with press availability for all of the panelist and presenters. This will be followed by the keynote presenter, Cynthia Hess, Ph.D., of the Institute for Women's Policy Research. Immediately following the keynote presentation, Dr. Hess will join a panel for a Q&A discussion on the briefing paper and other issues concerning women of Eastern NC. Other panelists will include Linda Murphy from Council for Women, Karen Schneider from the United Way of Wayne County, Lisa Benton from the Wells Fargo Foundation, Diana Cooper Mann from the Center for Family Violence Prevention, and Sheila Orth from Martin/Pitt Partnership for Children.

Among the briefing paper's key findings expected to be discussed include the discovery that Eastern NC (ENC) will face challenges of an aging population sooner than other NC regions. For example, women living in ENC are 5 years older than those living in other areas of NC and the nation (median age of women in ENC is 43-years-old compared to 38 elsewhere); and 19% of the female population in ENC is 65-years-of-age or older compared with 15% in the state and nation.

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Other findings include: the gender wage gap can be attributed to occupational segregation in ENC; women in the majority of ENC counties have higher age-adjusted mortality rates from heart disease than in the state; and 77% of working women have children under the age of 18 compared with 74% in the state.

For more information on the forum, please contact Linda V. Murphy at 252-514-4868 or [linda.murphy@doa.nc.gov](mailto:linda.murphy@doa.nc.gov). For a copy of the briefing paper and a link to the live stream, please visit the [NC Council for Women](#) online or call 919-733-2455.

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